Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-10 AID-05 /088 W

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R 211600Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4583

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0458

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SF, RH, ZA

SUBJECT: VORSTER REFERS TO RHODESIA IN PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE

1. ON APRIL 21, DURING THIRD DAY OF DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, PRIME MINISTER VORSTER DID NOT DIRECTLY REFUTE ZAMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MWAANGA'S ASSERTION AT OAU FM MEETING IN DAR ES SALAAM THAT SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE WOULD BE WITHDRAWN FROM RHODESIA BY END OF MAY. HE SAID THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE IN RHODESIA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS, AND THAT CONTINUED PRESENCE OF AFRICANPOLICE THERE COULD BE CONSTRUED AS INTERFERENCE.IN EVEN BROADER HINT THAT SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE STILL IN RHODESIA MIGHT BE HOME SOON, HE SAID POLICE HAD BEEN PLACED UNCLASSIFIED

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THERE AT A TIME WHEN THERE WERE ELEMENTS IN GUERRILLA FORCES WHOSE

INTENTION WAS TO MOVE AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA. HE THEN STATED THAT THERE HAD BEEN "AN IMPROVEMENT" IN THIS SITUATION AND, MOREOVER, SAG HAD RECEIVED CERTAIN "ASSURANCES" IN THIS REGARD.

2. ON MORNING OF SAME DAY THAT VORSTER WAS SPEAKING, SOUTH AFRICAN NEWSPAPERS CARRIED REPORT FROM WASHINGTON THAT ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT KAUNDA HAD URGED UNITED STATES AND WEST TO ISOLATE SOUTH AFRICA WITH EVERY MEANS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO FORCE CHANGES WITHIN THE REPUBLIC. REPORTEDLY, KAUNDA APPEALED TO AMERICANS TO GIVE ALL-OUT SUPPORT TO OUSTING OF "COLONIAL" REGIMES IN RHODESIA AND SOUTH WEST AFRICA AND TO ENDING "VILE APARTHEID IN THE REPUBLIC." REFERRING TO THESE STATEMENTS, VORSTER SAID HE WOULD NOT "COMMENT CONCLUSIVELY" ON PRESS REPORTS. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE REALIZED KAUNDA UNDER GREAT PRESSURE TO MAKE STRONG STATE-MENTS ABOUT SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. HE THEN SAID THAT ALTHOUGH HE WOULD NOT WANT TO MAKE ANY COMMENTS WHICH MIGHT UPSET THE CURRENT "PEACE OFFENSIVE" IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, PRESIDENT KAUNDA SHOULD BE "WARY NOT TO OVERSTRAIN THE STRINGS OF HIS BOW" (E.E., HE SHOULD BE CAREFUL NOT TO GO TOO FAR IN WHAT HE SAID.

3. SPEAKING FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION, VORSTER EMPHASIZED THAT DECISION TO NEGOTIATE WITH ANC LEADERS HAD BEEN MADE BY RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT, AND THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAD GIVEN "NO ORDERS" TO RHODESIA. AFTER DESCRIBING SOUTH AFRICA'S ROLE IN CONSULTATIONS WITH IAN SMITH AND PRESIDENTS OF ZAMBIA, TANZANIA, AND BOTSWANA, VORSTER SAID HIS GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS WERE "WITHOUT BLAME." HE ASSERTED THAT WHITES AND BLACKS WOULD CONTINUE TO NEGOTIATE IN RHODESIA, WOULD NEGOTIATE WITHOUT OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE, AND WOULD NEGOTIATE REGARDING QUALIFICATIONS OF RHODESIAN VOTERS. HE SAID THAT WITH GOODWILL A SOLUTION TO RHODESIAN PROBLEM WAS POSSIBLE, BUT THAT THIS WOULD INVOLVE TIME AND MANY MEETINGS BETWEEN WHITE AND BLACK LEADERS.

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Subject: VORSTER REFERS TO RHODESIA IN PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE TAGS: PFOR, SF, RH, ZA, OAU, (VORSTER, BALTHAZAR JOHANNES)

To: STATE

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